1	16. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 10, wherein the
2	method further comprises removing a highest priority node from the skip list
3	through a constant time operation, wherein the head node of the skip list points to
4	the highest priority node for ease of deletion, and wherein keys for nodes are
5	chosen to achieve this ordering.
1	17. The computer-readable storage medium of claim10, wherein the
2	method further comprises periodically performing a garbage-collection operation
3	to reclaim deleted nodes that have become unreachable.
1	18. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 10, wherein the
2	target node includes:
3	a key that contains a priority value for the node in the skip list;
4	a value field that contains or points to data associated with the node;
5	a next pointer that contains the address of an immediately following node
6	in the skip list; and
7	zero or more higher-level next pointers, wherein a given higher-level next
8	pointer contains the address of the immediately following node in the skip list that
9	reaches or exceeds the height of the given next pointer.
1	19. An apparatus for deleting a node from a skip list, wherein the skip
2	list is lock-free, which means that the skip list can be simultaneously accessed by
3	multiple processes without requiring the processes to perform locking operations
4	the apparatus comprising:
5	a receiving mechanism configured to receive a reference to a target node
6	be deleted from the skip list;